

GoFarm Hawai'i – Growing Hawai'i's Farmers

The Situation

Located more than 2,500 miles from the continental U.S., Hawai'i imports about 80% of its food, making the state vulnerable to natural disasters and global events that might disrupt shipping and food supplies.

The current pandemic highlights the urgency of developing a stronger and more resilient local food system with farmers who have the skills and resources to innovate in the face of rapidly changing market opportunities.

Extension's Response

Operating since 2003, CTAHR's GoFarm Hawai'i program provides multiple services:

1. **AgBusiness Support and Education:** The AgBusiness Team provides business guidance, education, and technical assistance to local agriculturalists statewide. Many businesses seek guidance on developing business plans, financial analysis, marketing, and business startup.
2. **Beginning Farmer Training:** The program offers a practical, experiential farming curriculum that includes technical skills, business training and incubation, and extended support for new farmers. With training sites throughout the state, GoFarm Hawai'i collaborates with CTAHR Extension staff and faculty who provide education, local expertise, and practical guidance for beginning farmers.



Impacts / Outcomes

- With 5 training sites across 4 islands (O'ahu, Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i), GoFarm Hawai'i has trained more than 430 aspiring farmers since 2013. The program offers up to one year of formal classroom and experiential training in production and business topics. Over the past 3 years, approximately 69% of graduates have gone on to start a farm business or work in the agricultural industry or food system.

- The GoFarm Hawai'i Ag-Business consulting program provides one-on-one support for new and existing farmers statewide. Support includes business and production

planning, marketing, evaluation of revenue options (including value-added food production and agtourism), financial analysis and cost of production, feasibility analysis, and project planning. In 2021, the team consulted with 80 existing, new, and aspiring agribusinesses and trained over 750 individuals on business-related topics.

For more information, contact:

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Advisory Panel and External Collaborators

The GoFarm Hawai'i Advisory Panel strategizes program direction and industry needs. Many of the individuals also provide education, guidance, and opportunities for the program.

- Dr. Charles Kinoshita, Professor Emeritus of Molecular Biosciences and Bioengineering; former Associate Dean of CTAHR
- Dr. Theodore Radovich, Associate Specialist; Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program Co-Coordinator
- Dr. Koon-Hui Wang, Associate Professor; Chair of the Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences
- Jari Sugano, O'ahu County Administrator; former Extension Agent (EA)
- Glenn Teves (Moloka'i EA; works closely with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)
- Joshua Silva (O'ahu EA)
- Jensen Uyeda (O'ahu EA)
- Kristen Jamieson (Farm-to-School EA)
- Rosemary Gutierrez-Coarite (Maui County EA)
- Jennifer Hawkins (Moloka'i EA)
- Amjad Ahmad (O'ahu EA)
- Sharon Motomura-Wages (Hawai'i Island EA)



- Kylie Tavares (Hawai'i Island EA)
- Emilie Kirk (Kaua'i EA)
- Kiersten Akahoshi (Department of Hawaiian Home Lands EA)
- Shannon Sand (Ag Finance EA)



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